

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 281307

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. SPAIN: GOS CANCELS SOCIALIST LEADER'S PRESS CONFERENCE

EMBASSY MADRID CONFIRMED PRESS REPORTS THAT THE SPANISH MINISTRY OF INFORMATION HAD CANCELLED A SCHEDULED PRESS CONFERENCE NOVEMBER 26 BY SOCIALIST WORKERS' PARTY LEADER FELIPE GONZALEZ BEFORE THE FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS' ASSOCIATION. THE MINISTRY ALSO CLOSED THE FOREIGN PRESS CLUB, SAYING ITS PERSONNEL WERE NEEDED ELSEWHERE.

EMBASSY COMMENT: THE INCIDENT IS THE FIRST OF WHAT MAY BE REPEATED ATTEMPTS IN THE COMING WEEKS TO TEST GOS INTENTIONS TO MOVE AHEAD WITH LIBERALIZATION. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) MADRID 8341, 11/26.

2. FRENCH VIEWS ON ANGOLA

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A QUAI OFFICIAL ELABORATED TO EMBASSY PARIS ON FRENCH VIEWS REGARDING DEVELOPMENTS IN ANGOLA, EMPHASIZING THAT THE GOF CONSIDERS IT POLITICALLY EXPEDIENT TO AVOID PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR THE FNLA/UNITA. HE NOTED:

--THE FRENCH ARE INTRIGUED BY INTELLIGENCE REPORTS THAT A DIVISION OF SOME 3000 FNLA TROOPS LED BY NORTH KOREAN OFFICERS IS POISED FOR AN ATTACK ON CABINDA.

--ALTHOUGH THE FRENCH PERCEIVE NOTHING WHICH INDICATES THE MPLA WILL NECESSARILY WIN, THE BIG QUESTION REMAINS HOW FAR THE SOVIETS WILL GO IN THEIR SUPPORT, CONSIDERING THE DIFFICULTIES IN COST AND LOGISTICS AND THE DIPLOMATIC RISKS.

--AFRICAN RECOGNITION OF AN FNLA/UNITA GOVERNMENT WILL ONLY OCCUR ON A SIGNIFICANT SCALE IF THE MPLA IS ROUTED.

THE OFFICIAL ATTRIBUTED THE INTRODUCTION OF FRENCH ARMS INTO ANGOLA TO SUCH THIRD PARTIES AS ZAIRE AND SOUTH AFRICA. (CONFIDENTIAL) PARIS 30848, 11/26. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, MORNING SUMMARY, PARTY LEADERS, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE281307
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: O: MORAN
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750413-0653
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975116/aaaaaeqw.tel
Line Count: 84
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SSO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 MAY 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <31 OCT 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, SOPN, SP, FR, AO, (GONZALEZ, FELIPE)
To: NSA MULTIPLE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006